

April 15, 1970

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your letter of April 2 and its enclosures. Check on Liebman and Forrestal.

I haven't had time to figure the cost of Coup yet but will. I have been busy with income tax (I've got a weird way of not paying any, but it requires letters, forms, etc.) and my PhD 3-year plan (prior to my oral).

I would like the 2 on 1 size on those transcripts. I want them for historical purposes, and also because I am interested in the interaction of people in this case, above and beyond that which is relevant from a pure research point of view. The second set is for one of my researchers who teaches the Garrison part of my course and who wants it entirely for the historical thing. We both intend to do a careful comparison of the transcripts with the media reporting, both inside and outside N.O. Both of us want eventually to focus almost entirely on the media in this case. For instance, while right now we present Garrison as a debacle, we also point out the many unchecked leads and all the unfinished business, and more important, that the media was dishonest, even though in some sense it was correct that Garrison was not what he claimed to be. I still feel that most of the attacks were no different than the attacks on the critics in general. But, this will be the best way to begin assessing them.

From Mary's last letter I do not know what is going on down there and suspect that she is resentful of my advice, or mental health professionals in general. I hope that she will be more direct with her feelings in the future and also hope that she takes some of the advice in the last letter I wrote her (see enclosed carbon). When someone like Jimmy Lee seems better is just when the real trouble often begins. In fact, the highest probability of suicide is at that time, and he is, or was, a very high risk suicide.

I look forward to the Newman book if it is psychological. As soon as I find the time (I guess that sounds a bit funny), I hope to do a large study of all that has been written of a psychological or psychiatric nature. It is mostly terrible garbage and raises the serious question of professional ethics and the misuse of so called "experts" to prove politically important theories. Mental Health professionals are potentially some of the most dangerous people in the society. Aldous Huxley wrote a good essay on this called "Miracle in Lebanon" which was published, among other places, in a volume entitled "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow." I do think that one of the keys to the case is in an analysis of the behavior and words of those who investigated it, in that if we can understand what each federal agency was up to, we can get rid of the red herrings they left, often inadvertently, as they covered their trails on countless things they have been doing wrong for years. I suspect that much of the dishonesty in this case has to do with the general working of the government rather than who killed Kennedy.

I have no ideas about the archives right now that are important enough for you to spend time on. I hope that your jaunt to the professional meeting is not all work. Best wishes.

*Gary*

cc: Harold